



MONTANA DNRC Conversation



CARDD hires new Bureau Chief

Meet Alice Stanley

Water Resources Regional Managers

The Two B's

Got Land?

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Thumbs up – Thumbs down

The latest at DNRC

Meet Alice Stanley... CARDD's new RDB Chief

Alice Stanley is the new Chief of the Resource Development Bureau in the Conservation and Resource Development Division. Alice has a masters in geology from Montana State University with an emphasis on hydrogeology.



Stanley

In the mid 1980s Alice worked with Chuck Dalby and Steve Sando in the DNRC Water Resources Bureau studying siltation rates in the Milk River. "I learned a lot about the effects of storage facilities on sediment load and the best places in Helena to ice skate," Alice said. She also served as staff hydrologist for two years with the Department of Health and Environmental Sciences (now DEQ) solid and hazardous waste program. Alice has spent the last 16 years with Tetra Tech, an environmental engineering firm in Helena, as project hydrologist and NEPA program manager.

As Resource Development Bureau

UPCOMING DATES OF INTEREST

April 8
April 22
April 27
May 5
May 13
May 28

Easter Sunday
Earth Day
Arbor Day
Cinco de Mayo
Mother's day
Memorial Day



Did you Know?

- To increase its applicant pools, DNRC recently manned a booth at the Big Sky Career Fair in Missoula.
- Since the approval of HB22, the water adjudication program, DNRC Water Resources Specialist have examined over 14,000 water right claims.
- The DNRC Seedling Nursery grew over 1 million seedlings last year.

Chief, Alice will coordinate grant and loan programs that fund renewable resource conservation, development and reclamation projects, and assist with regional water system development. She joined CARDD in February.

"The Bureau's programs are designed to invest in renewable natural resource projects that benefit Montana's economy and natural heritage. I look forward to using my technical expertise to help Montana communities with water develop-

ment and natural resource conservation," Alice said.

Alice has chaired the Lewis and Clark Water Quality Protection District Board and the Helena Open Lands Management Advisory Committee. She and her husband have lived in Montana for 25 years.

She loves to snowshoe, ski, hike, and float any river that can be navigated without spilling her favorite beverage.

Welcome Alice!

DNRCConversation is an employee newsletter published quarterly by the Montana Department of Natural Resources and Conservation. Please send news articles or ideas for articles to your division liaison or to any member of the Editorial Board.

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Bob “I like Corvettes!” Larson Regional Water Manager (Havre/Glasgow)

A third generation Montanan, with family ties to farming and ranching, Bob Larson came to DNRC as a graduate of Havre High School and MSU. After graduating with a degree in civil engineering he went to work for the City of Los Angeles as an engineer and then to the Soil Conservation Service. He arrived at DNRC's doorstep in 1978 as a Water Resource Specialist.

Bob was hired by T J Reynolds, Field Office Supervisor and Ted Doney, Division Administrator, to work for the DNRC Water Resources Division. “In those days, we were given basic new employee orientation for five days in Helena, a box of problem water rights application files, a desk and chair that I packed in the back of my personal pickup and was instructed to return to Havre, lease office space, and start up the Havre Regional Office to administer water resources and provide public service for the Division over an eight county area,” Larson explained.

Over the years the Havre Regional Office has moved locations within Havre twice to accommodate Division needs and program requirements. In 1994, Gary Fritz,

Administrator for the Water Resources Division, asked Bob to temporarily accept the added responsibility to remotely supervise and manage the Glasgow Regional Office with another ten counties of water resource service area, and, he's been doing that every since.

“We serve an area of over a third of the state covering some 50,000 square miles, however, the population within this primarily rural area encompasses only 12 percent of the states population,” Larson explained.

Bob was raised on a family farm and ranch north of Havre that he purchased and expanded to a family corporation that produces small grain crops and Angus foundation cattle seed stock. For twenty-six years prior to 1998, Bob and his family sold registered Angus bulls and replacement cows. The registered herd was sold in 1998 and replaced with an Angus commercial herd to cut down on Bob's time and labor commitments to the ranch corporation.

An avid outdoorsman, Bob enjoys all kinds of outdoor activities including hunting, fishing, boating,



Walking on water – Bob shows how easy it is to measure water depths.

skiing, hiking, camping, horseback riding, and just relaxing around a camp fire. One of Bob's biggest passions is Chevrolet Corvettes. Making at least one trip annually with his “Vette”, he looks forward to the trips, enjoying the scenery with his wife and fellow Corvette enthusiasts. In addition, he likes to travel and meet different people, likes big block Chevy's, fast cars in general, and cherishes time spent with his friends and family.

State Electronic Transfer Service Now Available

A common question for DNRC's IT staff is: “How do I send large files to individuals or agencies outside of state government?”

Whether the file is a Powerpoint, a report, a photograph or another electronic file, there is a new system available for sending and receiving files. The state's Transfer Service - found at <https://transfer.mt.gov> allows DNRC employees to send large files (over the 4 MB limit of

e-mail) and receive large files. The Transfer Service requires only a web browser and network connection for use. The system is secure and requires users to login to send or receive files. State employees use their standard network login to send files while users outside state government will need to establish an ePass account to transfer files.

The transfer of files must include a state email address either on the

sending or receiving end. State employees are able to send files to other state employees or ePass Montana customers. ePass Montana customers are only able to send files to state employees. File sizes are limited to 2 GB and will be removed from the server after 15 days.

Complete instructions on using the Transfer Service are available at <https://transfer.mt.gov/instructions.aspx>

Bill “Big Sky Dividend” Schultz Missoula Regional Water Manager

A native South Dakotan, Bill Schultz does more than just manage regional water in western Montana. He's a man with many talents and many hobbies.



With miles of smiles, Bill hits the trails.

Schultz, a DNRC employee for 29 years, graduated from the University of Montana (UM) School of Forestry with a bachelor's in Resource Conservation and Geology with an emphasis in Hydrology/Watershed Management. He worked seasonally with the USFS, in Troy, for four seasons and with the BLM as a hydrologist trainee after graduation.

But, western Montana was too big a draw and he was soon a DNRC employee. He began in the Forest Management Bureau as a hydrologist and over the years worked up in the organization to the pinnacle of Hydrology Section Supervisor, charged with responsibilities in MEPA compliance, timber sale contracts and collections, and forest planning. After 23 years at the Forest Management Bureau he took the position in Water Resources Divi-

sion as Missoula Regional Manager in 2001.

Along the way, he married Cindy, another UM graduate, and currently a pharmacist at St. Pat's Hospital in Missoula. With that 28-year marriage came two sons, Andy, age 23 and Sam, age 21, whom have interesting lives of their own. "Both boys are professional cyclists, racing primarily cross country mountain bikes, although both do some road racing too," Schultz explains.

Sam is the current (2006) U-23 (under 23 years of age) National Champion in cross-country mountain biking. He has been a member of the National U-23 MTN Bike Development Team headquartered at the Olympic Training Center (OTC) in Colorado Springs since graduating from high-school in 2004. He is going on his 4th year as a resident athlete at the OTC. He has represented the USA at the World Championships the last four years. These races were in Switzerland, France, Italy, and New Zealand. He has also raced at numerous other events across Europe and South America. For 2007 he remains a resident at the OTC but has signed a contract to race for one of the top pro teams in the US – Subaru Gary Fisher.

Andy won the U-23 National Championship in 2005. He was chosen to represent the USA at the 2005 World Championships in Italy, joining his little brother on the squad. He presently races for the BearNaked-Cannondale Moun-

tain Bike Team. He plans to hit the domestic mountain bike race scene hard this year and then see what his engineering degree is worth this fall.

"Cindy and I attended the race in the Italian Alps and it was a real thrill to see both sons' lining up against the best mountain bikers from all over the world," Schultz said.

Bill and Cindy are responsible for their sons' current endeavors. "We encouraged them to pursue cycling and biking at an early age. It has always been a part of their lives as it has ours," he explained.

An avid biker himself, Bill logs approximately 1,000 miles annually on both mountain bike and



Bill and his friends enjoy a mountain bike trip.

road bikes. He takes advantage of the many opportunities around Missoula as well as the surrounding states. And, he even finds time to bike with his sons. But biking isn't the only sport Bill enjoys. "I also get a great deal of hiking, backpacking, and hunting in each year. I refer to it as the 'Big Sky Dividend!' It's why I live here!" he said enthusiastically. Don't be surprised if you see Bill on the trails or in your next meeting!

Forestry Division loses one of its own

The Forestry Division recently lost one of its own this year. "The Swede", that's what the Butte native and retired Navy Master Chief was nick named. Eric Lasell, Communications Engineer for DNRC passed away after a long bout with small cell

lung cancer. Eric passed away in January. He started work with the DNRC 6 and 1/2 years ago, working alongside Sean Gallagher, the Communications Technician, to keep our fire fighters safe through an extensive state-wide radio network. Eric spent a lot of time

in Eastern Montana working with our Land Offices and cooperators, maintaining the network of repeaters and radio's as well as representing DNRC on the State-wide interoperability project. Eric will be missed by all that had the opportunity to work with him.

Land Banking Update

The Trust Land Management Land Banking program manages the sales and acquisitions of school trust land as authorized by House Bill 223 in the 2003 Legislature (77-2-361 through 367, MCA). The program is scheduled to sunset in 2008, but Senate Bill 131 currently going through the legislative process, would extend the date to October 2011, if passed.

Under the program, the proceeds of trust land sales are placed in a special land banking account, which

can only be used to acquire other real property interests (land, easements, or improvements).

- Between FY 2006 and FY 2007, the Trust Land Management Division sold 19,189 acres of land; 18,625 isolated acres, 564 legally accessible acres.
- The sale of the 19,189 acres generated \$10,669,498 in sales revenue to be used to purchase replacement property (former annual income for the parcels totaled \$25K).

- 20 parcels were nominated for acquisition, of which 4 parcels were purchased and 1 parcel is pending for a total of 24,315 acres. The acquisition properties are estimated to generate \$188K in annual income. The replacement property also has public access.

The goals of the program include increasing public access to State Trust land and improving the investment portfolio of the trust beneficiaries by diversifying land holdings.

Thumbs Up — Thumbs down



Thumbs Up – for a \$65.2 Million check presented to Montana schools from DNRC and State Trust Land Management revenues in FY 2006. The check is the largest ever and represents an increase of more than \$8 million from last year.



Thumbs Down – For Montana needing to sue Wyoming over water rights violations in the Tongue and Powder Rivers. Wyoming is using more water than allowed under the 1950 Yellowstone

River Compact and it is causing hardships for communities and other water users in Montana.



Thumbs Up – to the Yellowstone River Conservation Districts and their planned Yellowstone River cleanup in July. Plans call for cleaning up trash at every fishing access site along the river – all 66 miles.



Thumbs Down – on the lack of significant snow fall in much of Montana this winter. You can blame global

warming, El Nino, or not enough snow dances, but it looks like it will be a dry summer again, particularly across southern Montana. www.drought.mt.gov



Thumbs Up – to Townsend School District for completing their new biomass heating system it will save approximately \$19,000 annually in heating costs.



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www.dnrc.mt.gov

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